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PENCE HAILS GRANTS FOR DUCK CREEK TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Washington, Jul 7, 2004 - WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence today announced that the Duck Creek Township Volunteer Fire Department in Elwood, Indiana, was awarded \$22,518 for fire operations and firefighter safety. The grant was awarded through the United States Fire Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the new Department of Homeland Security.

“Our local fire departments are the first responders when tragedy strikes and are many times the most in need with regards to funding,” said Pence. “I am pleased that the Department of Homeland Security is supporting our firefighting personnel in Elwood by making this grant available.”

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awards one-year grants directly to fire departments to support the nation's firefighters and the services they deliver. For the 2004 program, Congress appropriated, and President Bush signed into law, \$750 million in direct assistance to firefighters to improve the effectiveness of firefighting operations, firefighter health and safety programs, and to establish or expand fire prevention programs throughout the United States. The Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) administers the program, in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration.

The grant will specifically be used for operations and firefighting safety, which includes training, equipment, personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness, and modifications to fire stations and facilities.

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